



Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

The River is a Poem

Use the following poetry forms and examples to help you write your own river poem.

Rules for Cinquain poetry:

Line 1: Title in 2 syllables (or words)

Line 2: Description of the title in 4 syllables (or words)

Line 3: Description of action in 6 syllables (or words)

Line 4: Description of a feeling in 8 syllables (or words)

Line 5: Another word for the title in 2 syllables (or words)

Example:

River

Water, Wildlife

Flowing, Rippling, Flooding

With graceful strength it passes by

Living

Rules for Diamante (diamond shaped) poetry:

Line 1: Noun

Line 2: Adjective, Adjective

Line 3: Participle, Participle, Participle

Line 4: Noun, Noun, Noun, Noun

Line 5: Participle, Participle, Participle

Line 6: Adjective, Adjective

Line 7: Noun

Example:

Ecosystem

Large, Complex

Producing, Consuming, Decomposing

Vegetation, Wildlife, Habitat, Niche

Competing, Preying, Interacting
Connected, Universal
Community

Rules for Haiku poetry:

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

Example:

The snake eats the mouse

Energy, nutrient flow

Will sustain wildlife

Rules for Free Verse poetry:

There are no rules of form or rhyme in free verse poetry. Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 1997.